

REMARKS

Claim 1-17 remain in the case.

Applicant expresses gratitude for the telephone interview with the examiner on October 5, 2004.

The drawings are objected to under 37CFR 1.83(a). The office action states as the reasons for the objections that the drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims, namely, "the inner diameter of the male tube within the male fitting is substantially the same as the inner diameter of the male tube outside of the male fitting." Applicant refers to Fig. 1, 3, 5, 7, and 9 where drawings show a male fitting, 12, 62', 62", 62'", 62'''' adapted to receive a male tube 18, 18', 18", 18'", 18''', respectively. The drawings show that the portion of the male tube that is disposed within the male fitting has a substantially same inner diameter as the portion of the male tube disposed outside of the male fitting. By providing a male tube that has an inner diameter that is substantially the same within the male fitting in relation to an inner diameter of the male tube outside of the male fitting minimizes frictional losses in fluid flow through the connection. This feature is clearly shown in Fig. 1, 3, 5, 7, and 9. Therefore the objection to the drawings should be withdrawn.

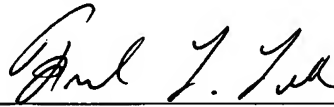
The rejection of claims 1-17 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention is respectfully traversed. The office action states that in claims 1, 6, and 11, it is unclear how the second o-ring is providing a radial seal between two members when the second o-ring is only sealing along the axial inner surface of the female tube or the inner surface of the female component block. Per the discussions in the interview with the examiner on 10/5/04, it was explained how the second o-ring is disposed between outer surface of the male tube and the inner surface of the female tube (or inner surface of the female component block) to create the radial seal. Being that the outer surface of the male tube is radially separated from the inner surface of the female tube (or inner surface of the female component block), a space is formed in between. The second o-ring is compressed within this space by the outer surface of the male tube and inner surface of the female tube (or inner surface of the female component block) thereby creating a radial seal

between the two members. Since this feature is both described and shown in the specification and drawings, the rejection of the should be withdrawn.

Claims 1-17 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of double patenting over claims 9-19 of U.S. Patent No. 6,676,167. Applicant has submitted, herewith, a terminal disclaimer under 37 CFR 1.321(c) to overcome the double patenting rejection.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Frank L. Lollo", is written over a horizontal line.

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